

THE MAN FROM --- ***KATHMANDU*** ---

Vol. 1



FIRST NEPALESE-HOLLYWOOD MOTION PICTURE



TOP SHEET

- MPAA Rating: PG 13
- Language English/Nepali
- Format Narrative
- Genre Action-drama
- Locations: Los Angeles & Kathmandu
- Shooting Schedule November-Dec 2017
- Release 2019





LOGLINE

A disaffected American-Nepali half Hindu-Muslim boy detours to Kathmandu on his way to find his father who he thinks has joined the war in Syria, but his Moral battle against a local don who kills his grandfather grounds him to the reality of his true relationships, and in the process, he reconnects with his root, culture and traditions of the Himalayan nation, which he had forgotten.

SYNOPSIS

Faisal Mustafa is half Muslim-Hindu Non-Resident-Nepali living in Los Angeles. He is in touch with an ISIS 'recruiter' and is preparing to join the war in Syria with his father. The recruiter has told him his father is waiting for him. A trained martial artist, Faisal is a one-man army. He's in trouble with the law for standing up for his religious belief at work and when a bunch of kids push him into another fight he knows there's no choice than to haste his departure. He travels to Kathmandu as instructed by the recruiter. It is to avoid detection by the Americans. His maternal grandfather, Suresh Bhandari, lives in Kathmandu and Faisal blames him for separating his parents because of religious beliefs.

Faisal reaches Kathmandu and learns that his grandfather is working with Namrata, at a rehabilitation camp for displaced people by the big earthquake. Namrata is his childhood sweet heart. The land mafia run by a local don/want-to-be politician, Abu Mia, needs the land occupied by the camp. Sher Thapa is the front henchman for Abu and makes Namrata's day-to-day life miserable to evict her camp. Faisal sees Sher Thapa abusing Namrata and he can't help but interfere. It turns out grandfather Bhandari has challenged Abu in court for illegal land grab and the battle is pretty serious. When Pundit Harshvardhan see things are getting out of hand after Faisal beats Sher Thapa, the fundamentalist leader sees an opportunity to bring down Abu.



Grandfather is brutally murdered by Sher Thapa with instructions from Pundit.

Faisal seeks revenge. This decision leads him through the maze of criminal, social and political conspiracy surrounding the murder. It also brings him close to Namrata especially after he learns they are married because of a child marriage tradition!

Abu learns Pundit's real motive and dirty conspiracy behind the murder of Faisal's grandfather. It is to derail his political campaign. Abu gets down to business and gets rid of Pundit. He plots to end the issue in the way he knows best. He kidnaps Namrata to trap Faisal and get rid of him too. However, Faisal saves his love and Abu is defeated. He has won the moral battle for his grandfather.

Faisal decides to surrender to the Americans but it turns out they were already keeping an eye on him. They force him to continue his journey to Syria albeit as their agent.

The adventure continues...

PRODUCTION TEAM

- The Production was assembled from USA, Nepal and India. It was our goal to make sure we make a film that is in all aspects if not better but atleast at par with any international film. For the vision that the director and producer had for this film it was important to bring specialized crew. Our contacts allowed us to get them. Local crew was tremendous in supporting them.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer:	Nakim Udin, Pema Dhondup
Director-Writer	Pema Dhondup Gakyil
Cinematographer	Carlos Medina
Executive Producer(s):	Sameera Uddin, Yangchen D. Gakyil
Editor	Erik Karchek
Sound supervisor	David Allen
Production Designer	Ellyn Puckett
Fight choreography	Jose Manuel
Composer	Jason Kunwar
Casting director	Raj Rathor



THE DIRECTOR



- Pema Dhondup is a filmmaker based in Hollywood. His parents settled in Jomsom before moving to India when they migrated from Tibet after the Chinese occupation of the country.
- Pema studied in India and acquired his MBA degree. He began working for a leading music company before switching to media. Pema and his wife floated a Non-profit media organization for the Tibetan people and produced, directed and wrote several shows including news videos, documentaries and infomercials for six years. Pema then came to Los Angeles as a Fulbright Scholar to study film making. He joined the famous film program at USC film school from where legends like George Lucas, Ron Howard and many others have graduated. He received his MFA degree in directing and writing and was chosen one of the four most talented filmmaker from his batch.
- He wrote, co-produced and directed the first Tibetan feature film titled 'WE'RE NO MONKS' with Bollywood star Gulshan Grover in the lead. There after Pema floated his production company in L.A and has been making documentaries, short films, Ads, music videos. He has several films in development both in Hollywood and Bollywood.



DIRECTOR'S VISION



I decided to set the film in Kathmandu, Nepal for two main reasons. First, Kathmandu city has the unique blend of ancient and modern feel and there's a spiritual unity here. That was important for this story. Second, I always wanted to make a film in Nepal, and now after this experience, I am sure many more will come.

People traveling to join ISIS get a sense of belonging and feel useful to a cause, which I thought was a good plot point for an action film. If these confused people become engaged in a different meaningful endeavor than what they are following I believe they will change. So, I began writing 'The man from Kathmandu' with these cores and as a different narrative from the thousands of others. CNN states 20,000 people have flocked to join ISIS.

After I found the right partner in Nepal that believed in making good and meaningful cinema, two journeys began. First was to make this film. It is the first English language Nepali-Hollywood film and a milestone for Nepalese cinema. I am very proud of it and thankful to everyone who helped us reach here. Second journey is to realize the vision of setting up the first studio in Nepal. Studio concept will dramatically expand the market for Nepalese cinema, I believe, both domestic and international.

PRODUCERS VISION



Nakim Udin is a pioneer when it comes to cinema in Nepal. He is not only known for his ground breaking films produced by his production company but also in cinema exhibition. Kagbeni and QFX are words that has become synonymous with his name now including Labim Mall.

Nakim is and has been a serial entrepreneur. After his backpack days that took him all over Europe and China, Nakim settled down to start business in Kathmandu where his father had gem business.

He came into cinema business in 1997 when he and partners took over Jai Nepal cinema and began giving cinema viewing a new approach. Today that group has extended into multiplexes and digital distribution of films all over Nepal.

CAST

- The Production Team has secured a strong ensemble cast consistent with the film's budget and other factors.



ABHU MIA SIDDIQUI: GULSHAN GROVER

[ABU]



- Gulshan is a super star with over 400 films under his belt.
- He has worked internationally and is one of the first actor from India to make it big in Hollywood.
- He is well known to the Indian world as 'Bad man'.
- His Hollywood credits include The Jungle book and many more.

FAISAL MUSTAFA: JOSE MANUEL

[LEAD]



Jose Manuel is a star in his country. Actually the biggest action star in Puerto Rico. He speaks fluent English and will be debuting in Hollywood soon. Humble and passionate Jose decided to form a team of highly talented stunt people to come and join him in this project. His film 'Uncompromised' won him accolades and best action sequence him many festivals. He looks very 'Nepali' and because of his talent in performing and choreographing action scenes he will be the man from Kathmandu.

HARSHVARDAN: HAMEED SHEIKH

(PUNDIT)



- Hameed is a well known Pakistani actor, director. His last film 'Moor' was sent from Pakistan to Oscar foreign language competition. He is considered one of Pakistan's break out star because of his roles in films like O21 and Khuda ke liye.

SURESH BHANDARI: NEER SHAH GRANDFATHER]



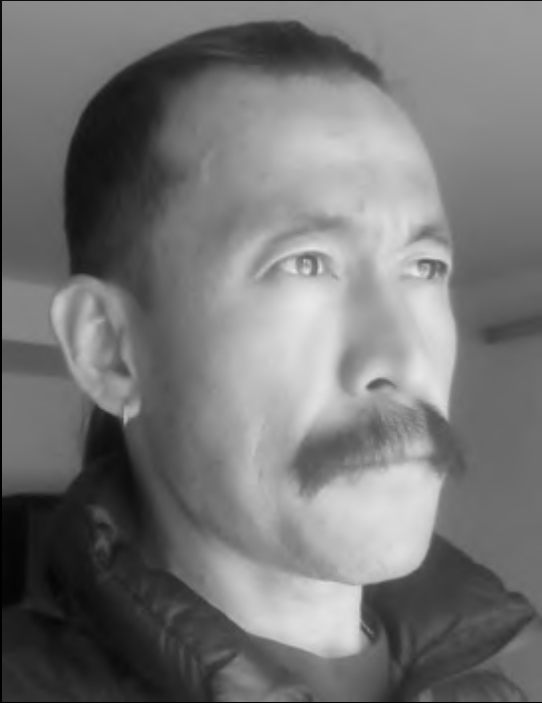
Neer Bikram Shah, also known as **Nir Shah** is a seasoned actor and is also known for his other works as a poet, lyricist and director. He has also appeared in Bollywood movies.

NAMRATA : ANNA SHARMA



Anna is an actor Nepalese cinema goes saw first in Jerry opposite Anmol KC. Her latest film Gangster Blues has set her apart from other actresses in the industry. Anna aspires to versatile and thus when the director approached her for the role she agreed because of the challenge to play a role that require subtle performance and English language.

PRAVEEN KUMAR: SHISHIR BANGDEL INSPECTOR



- Sunir is an established and immensely talented actor in Nepal's film industry. As a serious theatre actor he jumped into films with such super hit pictures like Loot and Kabbaddi.
- Sunir is involved in world cinema too and his feature 7 ½ is being shot right now for international audience.

SHER THAPA: KARMA SHAKYA

THE HENCHMAN



Sher Thapa

Karma Shakya has made himself a unique space in Nepali cinema. He has not only played lead roles but also character roles. Having a theatre background as training has allowed him to adapt and get into different characters.

GULSHAN GROVER ON SET



HAMEED SHEIKH ON SET



JOSE MANUEL ON SET



ANNA SHARMA ON SET



AMIR GAUTAM AND KARMA ON SET



FAQ

About the project

This is the first Nepalese-Hollywood production with cast and crew assembled from many countries.

Why this story?

It is a topical subject and we wanted to make a film that is not just run of the mill for the first Nepalese international project we wanted to make.

Where and when will it be released?

It will be released all over the world sometime in 2019.

What is vol. 2 about?

The plot is a secret but it can be said you will see a thriller.

Who are in vol. 2?

It will depend on the plot but we are expecting it to be of a much bigger scale. So, Hollywood and Bollywood plus Nepalese actors will be in it.

Where was post production done?

The entire post works was done in Los Angeles except the Nepalese language dub and score.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

- Faisal Mustafa is half Muslim-Hindu, Non-Resident-Nepali living in Los Angeles. Frustrated with what's going on in America and the western world regarding his faith, he prepares to join the war in Syria with his father. Faisal thinks his maternal grandfather is responsible for the separation of his parent and hates him. After he falls in trouble with the law Faisal hastes his departure. He travels to Kathmandu as instructed by a recruiter to avoid American suspicion.
- Faisal reaches Kathmandu and learns that his grandfather is working with Namrata, his childhood sweet heart, at a rehabilitation camp. The land mafia run by a local don/want-to-be politician, Abu Mia, needs the land occupied by the camp. His henchman Sher Thapa makes Namrata's day-to-day life miserable to evict her camp. Faisal sees Sher Thapa abusing Namrata publicly and he can't help but interfere. Pundit Harshvardhan is Abu's rival and finds an opportunity to bring down Abu when he learns about Faisal.
- Faisal soon lands in the maze of criminal, social and political conspiracy going on in his grandfather's life and town. His interference jeopardizes his goal but eventually victory changes his life.

PARTNERS



CONTACT

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